



HAMILTON COUNTY

**First
Suburbs
Consortium**

Meeting Summary

July 29, 2009
6:00 PM–8:00 PM
Meiers Wine Cellars
6955 Plainfield Road, Silverton

Participants

Jenny Kilgore, Glendale
Jim O'Reilly, Wyoming
Chuck Kamine, Amberley Village
John Smith, Silverton
Chris Gilbert, Springfield Township
Alan Zaffiro, Golf Manor
Kelly Osler, Blue Ash
Peggy Brickweg, St. Bernard
Richard Ellison, Elmwood Place
Tom Moeller, Madeira
Chris Anderson, Forest Park

Kim Fender, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
Holly Christmann, Solid Waste Management District
Elverna Murray, North College Hill Concerned Citizens
Jean Harp, North College Hill Concerned Citizens
Andy Dobson, Regional Planning Commission
Todd Kinskey, Regional Planning Commission

Agenda Items

Board of Commissioners Agenda

1. Commissioner Todd Portune (invited)
2. Commissioner Greg Hartmann (invited)
3. Commissioner David Pepper (invited)

Membership Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Treasurer Update
3. Kim Fender, The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
4. Holly Christman, Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District
5. Jenny Kilgore: Update on September policy meeting with state legislators
6. Other Business

7. Adjourn

Discussion

Board of Commissioners Agenda

The Commissioners were not able to attend. The group proceeded to the Membership Agenda.

Membership Agenda

Items 1 & 2

John Smith opened the meeting and made introductions. Jim O'Reilly reported that First Suburbs has \$16,517 in the checking account and \$5,226 in a certificate of deposit. Jim asked the group to make a motion allowing him to transfer the accounts from Northside Bank to Fifth Third Bank. There are not any Northside Bank branches in or near Wyoming, and Jim would like to transfer to Fifth Third for convenience. The motion was approved unanimously.

Item 4 (taken out of order)

Holly Christmann from Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District presented some information about the Recycle Bank program. Montgomery is a pilot community for this nationally-based project to increase recycling by providing direct incentives to participants. The program tracks the weight of materials recycled by households and rewards points redeemable for coupons to various retail stores—including local stores that Recycle Bank partners with. Montgomery is one of the first cities in Ohio to try this program and it has been a great success. Recycling rates are up 29% and the amount of garbage sent to the landfill is down 14% since the project began.

One of the few downsides of Recycle Bank is the up-front costs of getting it started. Each resident is provided with a 64-gallon wheeled bin instead of a small hand-carried bin. Collection trucks have to be equipped with scales to weigh and log each bin as it is collected and to assign points. There is also some staff, administrative, and IT costs involved. All this makes it difficult for Recycle Bank to generate much interest in that most communities are dealing with severe budget cuts. Holly explained that Ohio Department of Natural Resources may be able to help with some state funding to offset start-up costs.

Holly also told the group that the Solid Waste Management District is working to make larger 64-gallon containers more widely available. Providing larger containers to residents generally increases recycling volumes. They are also continuing to work on public outreach and education about recycling and what programs are available. There are many residents who either don't know about the benefits of recycling, or are unaware that their community provides curbside recycling pick-up service.

Item 3

Kim Fender, Executive Director of The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County talked with the group about a property tax levy the library will have on the ballot this November. Most people don't know that Hamilton County does not have a local property tax levy specifically for

the library—we are the only urban county in the state that does not. The reason for this new levy proposal is the state funding the Library relies on will be severely cut in 2010, leading to an estimated \$16 million deficit. Already reeling from past budget and staff reductions, if the Library cannot fill this budget gap it will have no choice but to scale back hours and services and close many of its branches. Ironically, the Library is serving more patrons than ever in part because of increased job-hunters and the successful renovation of the main branch.

Twelve FSC-SW member communities have a branch library. Kim did not have specifics on which ones may close. The proposed countywide 1-mil levy would replace the lost state funding. Kim stated that it should cost about \$2.50 per \$100,000 of home value each month (\$30.00 annually). The group discussed what kind of endorsement FSC-SW could offer collectively and by individual members. The Executive Committee will discuss this at their next meeting.

Item 5

Jenny Kilgore gave a brief update on planning for the Ohio First Suburbs legislative meeting scheduled for September 16. Members are strongly urged to send one or two representatives to this event. More information will be sent to members as the program develops.

Next Meetings

Executive Committee

August 10, 2009

8:30 AM–10:00 AM

Amberley Village Administration Building

7149 Ridge Road

Membership Meeting

October 29, 2009

Location to be announced